



Nigeria – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 20 March 2017

Any information on the bombing of a shop in the centre of Jos on 20/05/14. Deaths, injuries? Did anyone claim responsibility?

An article from UK newspaper The Telegraph refers to explosions in Jos on Tuesday 20 May 2014 as follows:

“Two explosions ripped through a bustling bus terminal and market frequented by thousands of people in Nigeria's central city of Jos on Tuesday afternoon, and police said there are an unknown number of casualties. The blasts could be heard miles away and clouds of black smoke rose above the city as firefighters and rescue workers struggled to reach the area as thousands of people fled. The cause was not immediately clear but the explosions come amid a bombing campaign by Nigeria's Boko Haram terrorist network, the extremists threatening to sell nearly 300 abducted schoolgirls into slavery.” (The Telegraph (20 May 2014) *Nigeria twin bomb attacks leave 'dozens' dead: Nigerian bomb attacks in central city of Jos kill dozens of people, witnesses report*)

See also article from UK newspaper The Guardian which states:

“At least 118 people were killed in the central Nigerian city of Jos on Tuesday after two bombs ripped through a business district packed with commuters and traders. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosions, but the bombs bore the hallmarks of other attacks by Islamist sect Boko Haram, which has recently stepped up a bloody five-year battle campaign to establish a caliphate in northern Nigeria, and kidnapped more than 300 schoolgirls from a remote north-eastern school in April. In the past month, the group has set off two bomb blasts in the capital, Abuja, and another in the country's second city, Kano.” (The Guardian (21 May 2014) *Nigeria bombings leave scores dead in city of Jos*)

An article from the online version of UK newspaper the Daily Mail states:

“Two car bombs exploded at a bustling bus terminal and market in Nigeria's central city of Jos on Tuesday, killing more than 100 people and wounding dozens. Mohammed Abdulsalam, coordinator for the National Emergency Management Agency in the city said: 'The exact figure of the dead bodies recovered as of now is 118.' He added that 'more bodies may be in the debris' of buildings which collapsed due to the intensity of the blasts. The second blast came half an hour after the first, designed to kill rescue workers who had rushed to the scene. While nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks, the double blast bears all the hallmarks of tactics used by militant Islamic group Boko Haram.” (Mail Online (20 May 2014) *'At least 118' killed as two car bombs rip through busy Nigerian bus terminal and market in attacks bearing hallmarks of Boko Haram extremists*)

An report from the Wall Street Journal states:

“Three bombs struck the crowded city of Jos in quick succession on Tuesday, aid workers said, killing at least 118 people and putting one of Africa's most religiously divided cities back on edge. Two bombs struck a teeming downtown marketplace minutes apart in the afternoon before a third blast occurred near a military outpost, said a Nigerian Red Cross aid worker who estimated that 40 people had been killed. Other aid workers, meanwhile, hung back-afraid of the possibility of a fourth bomb, he said. Witnesses told the British Broadcasting Corp. that they had seen more than 40 bodies carried into a nearby hospital. ‘It's serious,’ said the Red Cross responder. ‘It was located at the heart of the city. The heart of the city.’ No group took immediate responsibility for the attacks. Still, the apparently indiscriminate bombings bore all of the gruesome hallmarks of Islamist insurgency Boko Haram, the same group that kidnapped 276 teenage girls from a high school in April.” (Wall Street Journal (20 May 2014) *Bombings Kill Scores in Nigerian City: No Claims of Responsibility for Blasts at Marketplace, Near Military Outpost in Religiously Divided Jos*)

A report from the Xinhua General News Service states:

“Death toll of the twin blast on a busy market road in Nigeria's central city of Jos on Tuesday rose to 118, after casualty figures were further collated from various health facilities, an official told reporters here. Mohammed Abdulsalam, coordinator of the National Emergency Management Emergency (NEMA) in Nigeria's north central region, said more lifeless bodies may be trapped in debris of buildings which collapsed following the loud blasts. He said at least 56 people sustained various degrees of injuries after suspected suicide bombers detonated some improvised explosive devices at the central business area in the city of Jos, capital of Nigeria's central Plateau State.” (Xinhua General News Service (20 May 2014) *Roundup: Death toll of Nigeria blasts rises to 118*)

A report from Al Jazeera states:

“Al Jazeera's Mohammed Adow, reporting from the capital, Abuja, said there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. ‘However, suspicion will most likely fall on the group Boko Haram,’ he said.” (Al Jazeera (21 May 2014) *More than 100 killed in Nigeria twin blasts*)

This report refers to burning shops as follows:

“Tuesday's blasts occurred 15 minutes apart in the afternoon, burning several shops to the ground, shattering windows and spreading rubble in the road.” (ibid)

A report from the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle states:

“The first blast went off in a busy market in the city centre. ‘There was a second explosion 20 to 30 minutes later nearby. It happened in a bus that the driver had stopped, to check the reasons for the hold-up’, Plateau State Police Commissioner Chris Olakpe told a DW correspondent at the scene. The second blast killed a number of rescue workers and volunteers who had

rushed to the scene to assist the victims of the first explosion. 'Pieces of human bodies were lying around like spare parts', Ibrahim Baba Hassan, a member of the State Assembly, told DW after visiting the scene. Fire fighters spent the night battling the blaze ignited by the attacks.

By Wednesday morning, the rescue crews had discovered at least 118 bodies. 64 people were undergoing treatment in hospitals. 'We don't rule out that we might find more bodies', police chief Chris Olakpe said. Hundreds of people streamed to the hospitals and morgues in search of friends and relatives that were still unaccounted for.

The attacks bore the trademarks of the militant Islamist sect Boko Haram, that has waged a deadly campaign against the government since 2009. The group has not officially acknowledged that it is behind Tuesday's blasts, but has in the past repeatedly planted bombs in public places in northern Nigeria and the capital Abuja." (Deutsche Welle (21 May 2014) *Outrage over bomb attacks in Nigeria*)

An Agence France Presse report states:

"In Jos, the co-ordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mohammed Abdulsalam, said buildings collapsed because of the intensity of the blasts in the New Abuja Market area, causing raging fires. 'More bodies may be in the debris,' he told AFP, adding: 'The exact figure of the dead bodies recovered as at now is 118... 56 people were injured.' The police in Plateau state, of which Jos is the capital, disputed the NEMA figure, however, and maintained that 46 were killed and 45 injured. 'We are saying 46,' said state police commissioner Chris Olakpe. 'That's the number we have in the morgues. But we are not ruling out more bodies.' The military said improvised explosive devices were hidden in a truck and a minibus. The second went off about 20 minutes after the first, as emergency service workers tended to the victims. Most of the victims were women, added Pam Ayuba, spokesman for the state governor, Jonah Jang." (Agence France Presse (20 May 2014) *Twin Nigeria car bombs kill at least 118*)

An article from the Mail Online states:

"Police anti-bomb squad officers on Wednesday dug into a crater left by one of two bombs that exploded in a bustling marketplace and bus station in a central Nigerian city as people searched for missing loved ones after the horrific attack that left at least 118 people dead. Most victims are women and children vendors from the market, said Mohammed Abdulsalam of the National Emergency Management Agency. Rescuers are waiting for earthmovers to demolish buildings weakened by the blast and move heavy debris so that they can safely search for more bodies, he said. 'We expect to find more bodies in the rubble,' Abdulsalam said. Security forces cordoned off the area of mounds of rubble, burned-out vehicles and razed buildings with the debris of panic scattered around - a sandal here, a hat there. Gloria Paul was among a handful of people at nearby Bingham University Teaching Hospital, searching for her husband. All she found was his car parked near Terminus Market, all the windows shattered. The search for survivors was halted Tuesday night by fires ignited in buildings by the massive blasts that were heard miles (kilometers) away. Firefighters fought through the night to douse the blazes that collapsed buildings, Abdulsalam told The Associated

Press in a telephone interview. At least 118 bodies were delivered to hospital morgues Tuesday, and 64 people were hospitalized, he said.” (Mail Online (21 May 2014) *Rescuers to dig for victims of Nigerian car bombs*)

A local shop owner describes this event in an article from The Guardian which states:

“Gabriel Uche never heard the sound of the explosion. All he knew was his brick, zinc-roofed electronics shop was suddenly pitch dark and silent. Then came a burst of searing pain and a high-pitched wailing from his nine-months-pregnant wife. Uche’s car was less than 10 metres from a car packed with explosives which detonated in a teeming business district in the central Nigerian city of Jos on Tuesday afternoon. Miraculously, he survived the twin explosions, believed to be the work of Islamist insurgents Boko Haram, that left at least 123 dead. ‘I came out and the first thing I saw was a woman with no head and no legs,’ he said, standing amid the twisted remnants of laptops and televisions, twisted into spidery globules of black metal. Gusts of wind carried the scent of ash and the acrid smell of burning flesh. Next door, his neighbour Sunday’s shop was an equally smouldering wreck. He was burnt alive along with three customers as flames from the car set his carpet shop ablaze.” (The Guardian (21 May 2014) *Nigeria bombs: ‘The first thing I saw was a woman with no head and no legs’*)

A report from the Abuja-based newspaper Premium Times refers to the arrest of an alleged bomb maker as follows:

“A young man in his mid 20s, who confessed being a bomb expert for the extremist Boko Haram sect has been arrested by military operatives in Borno state while on his way to Sambisa forest, the dreaded hideout of the Boko Haram terrorists, reliable high-ranking military sources have told PREMIUM TIMES. The man, whose identity is being concealed by the authorities, appears a big catch for the military as he has confessed being involved in the recent Nyanya and Jos bombings that killed more than 300 people.” (Premium Times (30 May 2014) *EXCLUSIVE: Nigerian military arrests Boko Haram’s bomb expert behind Nyanya, Jos bombings*)

See also report from Nigerian newspaper The Nation which states:

“A source within the security agencies alleged that over 100 suicide bombers might have been deployed in Jos. The senior security officer said: ‘Let me tell you, we are in serious trouble in this state. Do you know that since last Tuesday’s explosion more than six members of Boko Haram have been caught and arrested from various places within the city’ The source added: ‘All the tension and rumour you are hearing everywhere in town that some people were caught with bomb here and there in Jos are real. Don’t just call them rumour they are real. We have discovered at least six of them since that Tuesday attack’ It was learnt that one of the Boko Haram agents apprehended last Friday at the Air Force base in Jos had confessed that there were at least 100 of them deployed in Jos city to detonate explosives at identified points. The suspect reportedly claimed that he was heading for the Airforce Hospital to deliver food to a patient on admission. But a security check on the suspect’s car revealed he was carrying explosives and was immediately apprehended and the explosive disabled.” (The Nation (26 May 2014) *Security agents arrest six Boko Haram suspects in Jos*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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